

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

al 1. (Currently amended) A method for creating a tissue seal, comprising:  
identifying a tissue in need of repair;  
contacting the tissue, and optionally a second tissue, with at least one  
photosensitizer agent to form a tissue-photosensitizer mixture; and  
applying electromagnetic energy to the tissue-photosensitizer mixture in a manner  
effective to produce cross linking of a protein in the tissue,  
wherein the tissue is not contacted with an exogenous protein ~~or~~ peptide or polymer  
which is cross linked by the application of electromagnetic energy,  
thereby creating a tissue seal.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the tissue is corneal tissue.

az 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least one  
photosensitizer agent is selected from the group consisting of Rose Bengal, riboflavin-5-  
phosphate, toluidine blue and N-hydroxypyridine-2-(1H)-thione.

az 4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least one  
photosensitizer agent is Rose Bengal.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contacting step occurs *ex vivo*.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contacting step occurs *in vivo* in a  
subject.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the subject is a human.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the application of electromagnetic energy to the tissue-photosensitizer mixture occurs without substantial thermal tissue damage.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the application of electromagnetic energy to the tissue-photosensitizer mixture occurs without more than a 3°C rise in temperature.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the application of electromagnetic energy to the tissue-photosensitizer mixture occurs without more than a 2°C rise in temperature.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the application of electromagnetic energy to the tissue-photosensitizer mixture occurs without more than a 1°C rise in temperature.
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12. (Currently Amended) A method for repairing a corneal lesion, comprising:  
contacting a corneal tissue with at least one photosensitizer agent to form a corneal tissue-photosensitizer mixture; and  
applying electromagnetic energy to the corneal tissue-photosensitizer mixture in a manner effective to elicit the production of a reactive species from the photosensitizer, wherein the corneal tissue is not contacted with an exogenous protein or peptide or polymer which is cross-linked by the application of electromagnetic energy, thereby promoting a partial or complete repair of the corneal lesion.

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13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the corneal lesion is caused by a surgical procedure.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the surgical procedure is selected from the group consisting of corneal transplant surgery, cataract surgery, laser surgery, keratoplasty, LASIK, refractive surgery, cornea reshaping, and treatment of corneal laceration.

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15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the electromagnetic energy applied is ~~greater~~ less than 200 J/cm<sup>2</sup>.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the electromagnetic energy is applied at an irradiance less than  $3.5 \text{ W/cm}^2$ .

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17. (Currently Amended) A method for repairing a corneal lesion *in vivo* in a living subject, comprising:

contacting a corneal tissue with Rose Bengal (RB) to form a corneal tissue-RB mixture; and

applying electromagnetic energy to the corneal tissue-RB mixture in a manner effective to elicit the production of a ~~reactive~~ oxygen species from the RB,

wherein the corneal tissue is not contacted with an exogenous protein ~~or~~ peptide or polymer which is cross-linked by the application of electromagnetic energy,

thereby promoting a partial or complete repair of the corneal lesion.

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18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the subject is a human.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the corneal lesion is caused by a surgical procedure.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the surgical procedure is selected from the group consisting of corneal transplant surgery, cataract surgery, laser surgery, keratoplasty, LASIK, refractive surgery, cornea reshaping, and treatment of corneal laceration.